

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

A prompt examination and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



T. Ling Chwang
Reg. No. 33,590
Jackson Walker L.L.P.
2435 North Central Expressway, Suite 600
Richardson, Texas 75080
Tel: (972) 744-2919
Fax: (972) 744-2909

May 14, 2001

Dated

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

~~Please amend Claim 1 as follows:~~

1. (Amended) A prepared nutriment comprising:
a nutriment material; and
a solution or suspension of an acidic sparingly-soluble Group IIA complex ("AGIIS")
absorbed therein or adsorbed thereon.

Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

2. The prepared nutriment of claim 1, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is isolated from a mixture comprising a mineral acid and a Group IIA hydroxide, or a Group IIA salt of a dibasic acid, or a mixture of the two.

Please amend Claim 4 as follows:

4. The prepared nutriment of claim 3, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 5 as follows:

5. The prepared nutriment of claim 1, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS, based on the total weight of the prepared nutriment, ranges from about 0.01 % to about 99.99 %.

~~**Please amend Claim 7 as follows:**~~

7. A prepared nutriment comprising:
a nutriment material; and
absorbed therein or adsorbed thereon a solution or suspension of an AGIIS prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide and sulfuric acid with or without the addition of calcium sulfate.

Please amend Claim 9 as follows:

9. The prepared nutriment of claim 7, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 12 as follows:

12. A method for manufacturing a prepared nutriment comprising:
contacting a solution or suspension of an AGIIS with a nutriment material.

Please amend Claim 13 as follows:

13. A method for manufacturing a prepared nutriment comprising:
contacting a solution or suspension of an AGIIS with a carrier to give a constituted carrier; and
blending the constituted carrier with a nutriment material.

Please amend Claim 14 as follows:

14. A method for destroying organic odor in an environment, comprising:
spraying the environment with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 15 as follows:

15. A method for preserving or improving organoleptic quality of a beverage, a plant product or an animal product, comprising:
contacting the beverage, the plant product or the animal product with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 16 as follows:

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 17 as follows:

17. A method for decreasing pH of a solution or suspension of an AGIIS, the method comprising:

heating the solution or suspension of the AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 18 as follows:

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is blended into food, feed, drink, food supplement, feed supplement, drink supplement, food dressing, pharmaceutical, biological product, seasoning, spices, flavoring agent, or stuffing.

Please amend Claim 19 as follows:

19. A method for reducing biological contaminants in a nutriment comprising:
contacting the nutriment with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 20 as follows:

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 22 as follows:

22. A method for reducing the pH of a nutriment comprising:
contacting the nutriment with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

~~**Please amend Claim 23 as follows:**~~

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the solution or suspension of an AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 24 as follows:

24. A method for reducing biological contaminants in an equipment comprising:
contacting the equipment with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 25 as follows:

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 27 as follows:

27. A method for preserving a consumable product, comprising:
contacting the consumable product with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

~~**Please amend Claim 28 as follows:**~~

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 30 as follows:

30. A method for reducing the quantity of a biological toxin in a medium, comprising:
contacting the medium with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 31 as follows:

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 36 as follows:

36. A method for enhancing the bioavailability of a nutrient in a nutriment, comprising:
adding to the nutriment a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

~~**Please amend Claim 37 as follows:**~~

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 39 as follows:

39. A method for incorporating a solution or suspension of an AGIIS into a dry nutriment, comprising:
adding the solution or suspension of the AGIIS to a suitable carrier to give a premixed product, and
blending the premixed product with the dry nutriment.

Please amend Claim 40 as follows:

40. The method of claim 39, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in

charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 42 as follows:

42. A method for treating a cutaneous anomaly on an animal, comprising:
treating the cutaneous anomaly with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 43 as follows:

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 47 as follows:

47. A method for inducing clotting of blood in a bleeding tissue in an animal, comprising:
contacting the bleeding tissue with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 48 as follows:

48. The method of claim 47, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and

the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 50 as follows:

50. A method for enhancing the adhesion of a first tissue to a second tissue, comprising:
contacting a solution or suspension of an AGIIS with the first tissue or both the first tissue and the second tissue; and
joining the first tissue with the second tissue.

Please amend Claim 51 as follows:

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 53 as follows:

53. A method for disinfecting a tissue, comprising:
contacting the tissue with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 54 as follows:

54. The method of claim 53, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 56 as follows:

56. A method for cleaning a product, comprising:
contacting the product with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 57 as follows:

57. The method of claim 56, wherein the solution or suspension of an AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 60 as follows:

60. A method for synchronizing a harvest of a desired part of a plant, comprising:
contacting the desired part of the plant with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 61 as follows:

61. The method of claim 60, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 62 as follows:

62. A method for preserving or improving organoleptic quality of a desired part of a plant, comprising:

contacting the desired part of the plant with a solution or suspension of an AGIIS.

Please amend Claim 63 as follows:

63. The method of claim 62, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 65 as follows:

65. A method for reducing biological contaminants in water, comprising:
adding to the water a sufficient amount of a solution or suspension of an AGIIS to reduce
the biological contaminants.
-

Please amend Claim 66 as follows:

66. The method of claim 65, wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is prepared by
mixing calcium hydroxide with sulfuric acid with or without calcium sulfate added thereto, and
the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in
charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate
in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the
AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 68 as follows:

68. A method for preparing a solution or suspension of an AGIIS comprising:

preparing an aqueous solution of a mineral acid;

preparing an aqueous solution or slurry of a Group IIA hydroxide or a Group IIA salt;

mixing the aqueous solution of the mineral acid with the aqueous solution or slurry of the

Group IIA hydroxide or the Group IIA salt;

removing solid formed to isolate the solution or suspension of the AGIIS, and the

solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring

sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in

sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the

AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 69 as follows:

69. A method for preparing a solution or suspension of an AGIIS comprising:

mixing a mineral acid in water with a Group IIA hydroxide and the resultant solution or

suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is less effective in charring sucrose and

less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid

having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or suspension of the AGIIS is non-

volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 72 as follows:

72. A method of preparing a solution or suspension of an AGIIS comprising:

adding a predetermined amount of calcium sulfate to an aqueous solution of concentrated
sulfuric acid to give a mixture;

adding a calculated amount of slurry of calcium hydroxide in water to the mixture to give
a reacted mixture;

removing solid formed in the reacted mixture to give the solution or suspension of the
AGIIS; [and the] and the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a certain acid normality is
less effective in charring sucrose and less corrosive to an animal skin than a saturated solution of
calcium sulfate in sulfuric acid having the same acid normality, and wherein the solution or
suspension of an AGIIS is non-volatile at room temperature and pressure.

Please amend Claim 75 as follows:

75. A method for preparing a solution or suspension of an AGIIS having a desired final acid normality, comprising:

(a) determining the amount of a mineral acid needed by the following equation:

$$E_1 = (N/2) + (N/2 + B)$$

wherein E_1 is the amount of the mineral acid, in moles, required before making purity adjustment; N is the desired final acid normality; and B is the mole ratio of a Group IIA hydroxide to the mineral acid needed to obtain the solution or suspension of the AGIIS having N , and B is derived from a pre-plotted curve depicting the relationship of the mineral acid and the Group IIA hydroxide for a desired N ;

(b) making purity adjustment for the mineral acid used by the following equation:

$$E_2 = E_1/C$$

wherein E_2 is the amount of the mineral acid, in moles, required after purity adjustment; E_1 is as defined above; and C is the purity adjustment factor for the mineral acid;

(c) determining the amount of water, in ml, needed to be added to the mineral acid by the following equation:

$$G = J - E_2 - I$$

wherein G is the amount of water, in ml, required to be added to the mineral acid; J is the final volume of aqueous mineral acid solution; I is the volume amount of Group IIA hydroxide needed, given below; and E_2 is as defined above;

(d) adding G to E₂ to give the final aqueous solution of the mineral acid, wherein both G and E₂ are as defined above;

(e) determining the amount of Group IIA hydroxide, in moles, needed by the following equation:

$$F_1 = N/2 \times B$$

wherein F₁ is the amount of Group IIA hydroxide, in moles, needed before making purity adjustment; and B and N are as defined above;

(f) making purity adjustment for the Group IIA hydroxide used by the following equation:

$$F_2 = F_1/D$$

wherein F₂ is the amount of the Group IIA hydroxide, in moles, required after purity adjustment; F₁ is as defined above; and D is the purity adjustment factor for the Group IIA hydroxide;

(g) determining the amount of water, in ml, needed to make the solution or slurry of Group IIA hydroxide by the following equation:

$$H = F_2 \times 1.5$$

wherein H is the amount of water, in ml, needed to make the solution or slurry of Group IIA hydroxide; and F₂ is as defined above;

(h) determining the amount of the aqueous solution or slurry of Group IIA hydroxide, in ml, needed to be added to the aqueous solution of mineral acid to give the solution or suspension of the AGIIS with a desired final acid normality by the following equation:

$$I = F_2 \times 2$$

wherein I is the amount of Group IIA hydroxide solution or slurry, in ml, needed;

and F_2 is as defined above;

- (i) adding H to F_2 to give the final aqueous solution or slurry of Group IIA

hydroxide, wherein both H and F_2 are as defined above;

- (j) adding the final aqueous solution or slurry of Group IIA hydroxide of (i) to the final aqueous solution of mineral acid of (d);

- (k) allowing the final aqueous solution or slurry of Group IIA hydroxide and the final aqueous solution of mineral acid of (j) to react; and

- (l) removing solid formed from (k).

Please amend Claim 78 as follows:

78. The solution or suspension of the AGIIS having a desired final acid normality prepared by the method of claim 75.